

Message Text

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17-12

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8748

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMECONSUL LUANDA

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE RE COVERAGE OF AZORES AND

US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

REF: STATE 224942 AND 225045 (NOTAL)

EMBASSY HAS INSTRUCTED ALL MISSION STAFF TO RESPOND ON IF-ASKED BASIS TO ISSUES RAISED IN OTTAWAY WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE (REPEATED INFO ADDEES) AND OTHER PRESS COVERAGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

1. HAS US POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL CHANGED SINCE THE RECENT MIDEAST CONFLICT?

A. US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS ARE CLOSE, BASED ON COMMON ALLIANCE IN NATO. AS TO THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA, THE US CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE SELF-DETERMINATION, AND FAVORS PEACEFUL MEANS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Q. DOES PORTUGAL SEEK TO OBTAIN SOPHISTICATED ARMS TO DEAL WITH MODERN COMMUNIST WEAPONS USED IN AFRICA?

A. NOTHING HAS ALTERED THE LONG-STANDING US EMBARGO

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AGAINST THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ANY OF THE CONTENDING

PARTIES IN THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN CONFLICTS. THE PORTUGUESE ARE WELL AWARE OF THAT POLICY, AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO REASON TO BELIEVE IT IS CHANGED.

Q. WILL THE US OPPOSE UN MEMBERSHIP FOR GUINEA-BISSAU AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM PORTUGAL?

A. WE BELIEVE GUINEA-BISSAU DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR NATIONHOOD: CONTROL OF CLEARLY-DEFINED TERRITORY AND POPULATION, ABILITY TO GOVERN, CAPACITY TO CONDUCT FOREIGN RELATIONS EFFECTIVELY AND TO FULFILL INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. THE ADMISSION OF GUINEA-BISSAU WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN THE UN. BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE GUINEA-BISSAU SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A STATE OR SEATED IN THE UN.

Q. WILL THE US VETO IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE WE OPPOSE ADMISSION. HOW THAT OPPOSITION WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION WILL DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME THE ISSUE IS RAISED.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS TRYING TO KILL THE "TUNNEY AMENDMENT" TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH WOULD RULE OUT ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR USE BY PORTUGAL IN AFRICA?

A. THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES THE TUNNEY AMENDMENT AS GRATUITIOUS AND UNNECESSARY. WE SEE NO REASON TO ENACT INTO LAW AN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY WHICH HAS FUNCTIONED LONG AND WELL. WE BELIEVE THERE ARE NO LEAKS IN OUR ARMS EMBARGO TO AFRICA AND DO NOT SEE HOW THIS AMENDMENT WILL IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

Q. IS THE US GOING TO HELP PORTUGAL TO OBTAIN PETROLEUM IF THE ARAB BOYCOTT COMES ABOUT?

A. THE USG IS CONSULTING WITH ALL COUNTRIES ACTUALLY OR POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY AN ARAB OIL BOYCOTT WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHAT MEASURES MIGHT INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY BE TAKEN.

Q. HAVE TALKS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT BEGUN AND, IF SO, WHAT HAVE THE PORTUGUESE ASKED FOR?

A. THE TALKS BEGAN OCTOBER 18 BUT WE CANNOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

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